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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 2 DECEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that on 28 and 29 November 1997, United States aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace, carrying out reconnaissance and engaging in acts of provocation as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with a view to putting a stop to these actions, which pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and are a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of the provisions of international law.

These actions terrorize the civilian population and cause damage to public and private property. Iraq reaffirms its right to seek compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Details concerning violations committed between 28 and 29 November 1997

1. In the northern region, 46 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar, Baibo, Kalik and Ain Safni.

2. In the southern region, 299 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Achbija, Jalibah, Afak, Salman, Bussayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Chinafiya, Basra, Chathatha, Lasaf, Diwaniyah, Najaf, Rifa'i and Rumaythah.

3. At 1055 hours on 28 November 1997, a United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region before heading off in the direction of Kuwait at 1218 hours.

4. At 1510 hours on 24 November 1997, the United States air force violated Iraqi airspace over the area of Umm Qasr.